

# New runway opens at Balad



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chad Chisholm

An Army C-12 piloted by Chief Warrant Officer Scott Kelley and 2nd Lt. Marvin Chase, 7th Battalion of the 158th Aviation Regiment, lands on the new runway at Balad Air Base, Iraq, Monday. According to Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, the completion of the runway gives the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing and its Army partners an exponential increase in the efficiency of the airfield.

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

In a historic moment, the wheels of a C-12 aircraft touched down at Balad Air Base, Iraq, on a little-known piece of the airfield. For the first time, a fixed wing U.S. aircraft took off and landed on Balad's newest runway.

"The completion of the runway gives us an exponential increase in the efficiency of the airfield," said Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander. "With one runway, we were sometimes limited in our operations. With the second opening up, anything is possible."

Being the busiest single runway airfield in the Air Force, with more than 13,000 flights a month and more than 25 different aircraft, the main runway was the path to the skies for all aircraft taking off from Balad. The constant use was starting to take its toll.

"Our primary runway was beginning

See **RUNWAY**, Page 6

## Total Force at Balad



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## Comics invade Iraq



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## Providing spiritual guidance



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# Dedication, hard work lead to promotion

## Don't let first-time failures get you down

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

When the staff sergeant promotion list was released last week, there were some senior airmen who unfortunately did not make the list. But according to Master Sgt. Embry Gibson, 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron education center non-commissioned officer in charge, not making staff sergeant the first time should motivate Airmen to hit the books and form a plan to reach that next stripe.

"The first question the Airmen need to ask themselves is how much did they study," said Sergeant Gibson. "From there they need to evaluate what they need to do better in terms of preparation the next time around."

Sergeant Gibson said that higher promotion rates are one reason many feel they don't have to put in as much time.

"With promotion rates being pretty good, many Airmen may feel like they don't have to study," he said. "But they should use that as incentive to work extra hard because their chances of making it are better."

Airmen should sit down with their supervisors or someone of higher rank to get some advice, he said.

"There are many outlets, including the education center, where Airmen can get study tips."

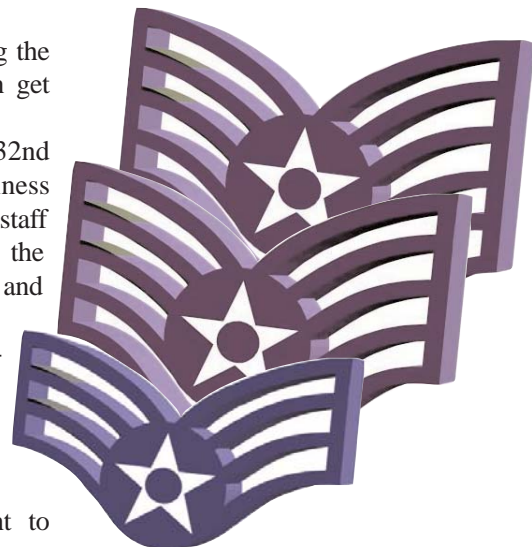
Staff Sgt. Ancele Prince, 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle maintainer, made staff sergeant on his first try but he'll be the first to admit that it took dedication and drive to be successful.

"I was tired of being at the bottom," he said. "I wanted to make rank badly. So I worked really hard. Every time I had a chance I would open my books up and study."

While setting goals is important to

career success, Sergeant Gibson emphasized that if those goals aren't met, Airmen shouldn't give up.

"If your short-term goal is making staff sergeant the first time, but your long term goal is making chief someday, you can't let one failure stop you from attaining that goal."



## COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

As a service for Balad Airmen, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing operates the Commander's Action Line program. The line is a way for Balad AB members to get answers to questions or express concerns about life on the base.

Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd AEW commander, gives action line queries his personal attention. The Red Tail Flyer will publish those items that are judged to be of general interest to the Balad AB population. In addition to using the commander's action line, Balad Airmen are asked to remember their chain of command when dealing with problems and concerns.

The Commander's Action Line can be reached via e-mail at 332cc.action-line@blab.centaf.af.mil. Those using the action line should include name, unit and phone number in case additional information is needed and for a timely response.

## News note

**The Air Force munitions storage area will be closed from Aug. 28 through Sept. 2 for a closed warehouse inventory. Anyone requiring munitions support during this time, please coordinate prior to these dates with the munitions accountable systems officer. Only bonafide emergencies will be supported during the inventory. Any questions may be directed to the MASO at 443-7811 or munitions accountability at 443-7810.**

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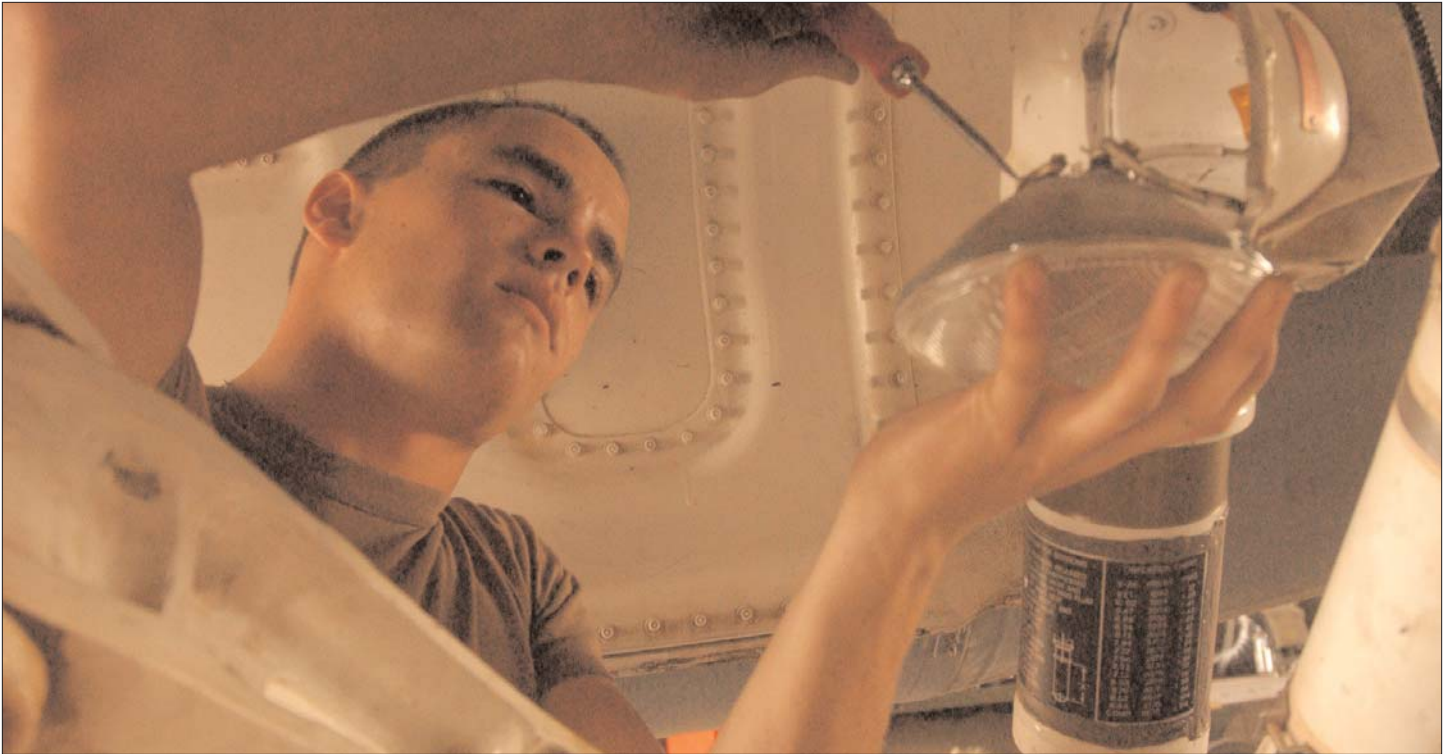


Photo by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

**Senior Airman Jacob Wheeler, a 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron crew chief, replaces a burned out taxi light on an F-16. The 332nd EFS includes Air National**

**Guard units from Texas, Minnesota and Arkansas as well as the 510th EFS, an active-duty squadron deployed from Aviano Air Base, Italy.**

## Guard members contribute to Total Force

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Maintaining and flying F-16s in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom is what Air National Guard units from Minnesota, Texas and Arkansas do to provide ground support to Army and Marine troops. Demonstrating the power of a Total Force, these units, along with the 510th EFS, an active-duty unit from Aviano Air Base, Italy make up the 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron based at Balad Air Base, Iraq.

Guardsmen from the 148th Air National Guard detachment out of Duluth, Minn., the 188th ANG unit out of Fort Smith, Ark., and the 174th ANG detachment out of Ellington Field, Texas, are working hand in hand with their active-duty counterparts here.

While popular opinion is that there are differences between the two, according to Guard members, those differences are very small. The mission is key and getting planes in the air doesn't change, no matter who you are.

"The same procedures hold true, whether you're active duty or Guard," said Lt. Col. Joel Henness, 147th ANG detachment commander. "We live under the same Air Force instructions. The only real difference for us is the mindset."

According to Colonel Henness, many of the Guard members here are part time, so they are not used to the everyday Air Force. For many Guard members, it's the first time they've been deployed in a combat environment.

"Back home we are constantly training on combat preparation and combat operations," he said. "Here we are putting that stuff to real-world use. We gain more of a sense of the mission. We are using live bombs and missiles with a chance that they will be employed."

Senior Airman Jacob Wheeler, an F-16 crew chief from Ellington, is a prior active duty Airman who has spent his entire career maintaining aircraft. He said one thing he notices is the kind of camaraderie the Guard members have.

"Most of us have worked together for a long time," he said. "We live near each other and go to the same church. It helps when you're deployed to have that comfort of knowing the person working beside you."

Bringing their active-duty teammates into that circle is important, said Tech. Sgt. David Grizzle, 174th ANG end of runway daytime supervisor.

"Working with the active-duty guys has been great," he said. "We are on the same page and we know we can count on each other to get the job done."

Lt. Col. Todd Phinney, 510th EFS assistant director of operations, deployed from Aviano Air Base, Italy said the Total Force concept here has been a seamless integration of combat air power between active duty and Guard members.

"You can't tell the difference," he said. "The Total Force concept is working like a champ."



Comic David Misiewicz runs onstage during a Comics on Duty performance at the H-6 recreation center Sunday. The four-person comedy group is traveling throughout the area of responsibility providing comic relief to troops deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. The comics put on three shows for members of Balad Air Base and Logistics Support Area Anaconda.

## Comics bring dose of laughter to Balad

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

The laughter from Airmen, Soldiers and Sailors rippled through the H-6 recreation tent Sunday as Comics on Duty relieved the stress for servicemembers deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq.

Comics on Duty came to Balad during their nine-day tour throughout the area of responsibility. The shows at Balad were their sixteenth and seventeenth performances, but the comics performing said no matter what, the show must go on.

"Being deployed is a 24-hour job," said comic Sarah Tiana. "It's our job to try to be funny 24/7 when we're out with the troops. We want them to know how much we appreciate them."

Comic Danny Bevins, who served in the Army, said that offering just a few minutes of distraction from the heat and long hours of deployment can make a big difference in a servicemember's day.

"I can see how tense they are when they sit down," he said. "As the show goes on I see that tension slowly fade away."

"The military is my second family," he added. "When you're in a

family, the most important thing to do together is to chill out. That's what we offer."

When the comics arrived on base, they had an opportunity to go out and visit troops on duty, which they say brings new perspectives on how servicemembers conduct business while deployed.

"I'm so impressed when I meet these guys," said comic David Misiewicz. "They come to our show and have a good time, but when we go out to see them on the job, they are really on the job. They are no nonsense and you can tell that they know how important their mission is."

Servicemembers lined up after the show to have their photos taken with the comics and to get pictures autographed.

"My favorite part is shaking hands afterwards and being told how much they appreciated the show," said Mr. Bevins.

Captain Kelly Sams, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing protocol chief, definitely appreciated the show, calling it a great break in her routine.

"It was relaxing and refreshing," she said. "Laughter is great therapy."



Photos by Staff Sgt. Chad Chisholm

Comic John Bizzare performs for a crowd at the H-6 recreation center Sunday.



## AF chaplain serves Army troops at remote posts

By Tech. Sgt. **Melissa Phillips**  
407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

ALI BASE, Iraq — When Spec. Jacob Boomsaad fell in love with a fellow Soldier while serving in Iraq, he feared he would have to delay the wedding until almost six months after they leave here to marry in a Catholic church.

That is until the specialist with the Headquarters Company 2-142nd Infantry, Texas Army National Guard, Lubbock, Texas, met Chaplain (Capt.) Chad Zielinski, 407th Air Expeditionary Group Catholic chaplain.

Chaplain Zielinski is the only U.S. military Catholic chaplain for servicemembers stationed in southeastern Iraq, and met the couple while trying to meet the religious needs of fellow Catholics outside Ali Base.

So when Specialist Boomsaad and his fiancé approached Chaplain Zielinski about their wedding plans, he said it was a breath of fresh air. His typical day centers around helping servicemembers through tough issues and concerns like infidelity, death, money and relationship problems that crop up back home and affect their duty performance here.

"I'm helping them to form goals and dreams for their future," said Chaplain Zielinski. "It's exciting."

Although Chaplain Zielinski can't marry the two lovebirds here, he's planning to in Texas when they all return from their deployments.

In the meantime, he provided marital counseling. If he hadn't, it would have delayed their matrimonial vows by the four to six months it normally takes to attain counseling after they return.

It was a wait they had resigned themselves to accept as the price of finding love in a war zone.

"Another priest told us we had to wait," said Sgt. Cintia Hernandez-Flores, 215th Quartermaster, Indiana Army Reserve, Jeffersonville, Ind., who is deployed to Camp Cedar, which is about a ten minute drive from Ali. "We live in different states,



Photo by Airman 1st Class **Jamie Shultz**

**Chaplain (Capt.) Chad Zielinski, 407th Air Expeditionary Group Catholic chaplain, mulls over the homily for his Sunday mass on the way to Camp Cedar. Chaplain Zielinski is the only military Catholic chaplain in southeast Iraq and also travels to Scania, a three to four hour drive to serve fellow Catholic members' religious needs.**

and we both go to college. It would have been very expensive to fly every weekend to do the preparation.

"Father Chad was very supportive. It's a difficult thing for people to understand that we weren't just trying to find someone for the 'deployment,'" Sergeant Hernandez-Flores said.

It wasn't hard for Chaplain Zielinski to understand.

"One day each person in the Air Force will no longer be in the Air Force," said Chaplain Zielinski. "The chaplain's mission is to bring an opportunity for each person to explore their beliefs and values in life."

Possessing the mindset of "have combat boots, will travel," he takes the gospel to those in need and performs five masses weekly, spread out between Ali, Camp Cedar and Scania. Scania is a remote site located a three to four hour convoy from here.

"I know I'm serving a critical need," said Chaplain Zielinski. "I will go out of

my way even if that means danger to meet servicemembers' religious needs."

He understands those demands firsthand. He was an enlisted supply specialist for more than three years before he felt his calling to become a priest. While going to seminary, he also served as an aerial port specialist in the Reserves. In all, he served seven years and made the rank of staff sergeant.

"I got a letter from the chaplain's recruiting service and e-mailed the contact to say I was thinking about it," said Chaplain Zielinski. "He called ten minutes later and said we need you tomorrow."

Chaplain Zielinski came back in with the idea of doing only three years, but hasn't looked back since.

"I enjoy living and working in an inter-faith environment with military personnel and chaplains of different backgrounds and various faith groups," he said. "By serving others, I serve God and my country."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chad Chisholm

## A helping hand

Maj. Scott Boehne and Tech. Sgt. Marsha Madsen from the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing judge advocate office provide legal assistance in their office, located in the 332nd AEW headquarters building. Satellite legal service is available Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the education tent in H-6.

### RUNWAY, from Page 1

to deteriorate," said 1st Lt. Tyson Schrecengost, 332nd Expeditionary Airfield Operations flight operations officer. "The runway was becoming an uncertainty for our F-16 pilots with constant foreign object debris."

"We close the runway parts of the day so civil engineers can do work on it," said General Gorenc. "When we have to close it, the mission comes to a halt."

With the second runway now open, those problems that arise will no longer close the airfield because flights can be pushed to the second runway, said Lieutenant Schrecengost.

According to General Gorenc, the task of getting the runway finished and operational was like an intricate ballet. The ballet involved members of the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, the Army Corps of Engineers, the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron and the helicopter units that were using the new runway for parking.


"Everything needed to come together at the same time," said General Gorenc. "If groups got out of sync it could threaten the mission."

Lieutenant Schrecengost called the 332nd ECES the workhorse of the new runway project with Senior Master Sgt. Ricardo Morgan, 332nd EOSS airfield manager, at the helm directing the operation.

"They made sure all the details were in place and construction was done in time," Lieutenant Schrecengost said. "All the players really made it happen."

The teamwork and effort that went into this project is a testament to the hard-working dedication of all the groups involved, said Lieutenant Schrecengost.


"This is a huge win for the Air Force, Army and rebuilding of Iraq."



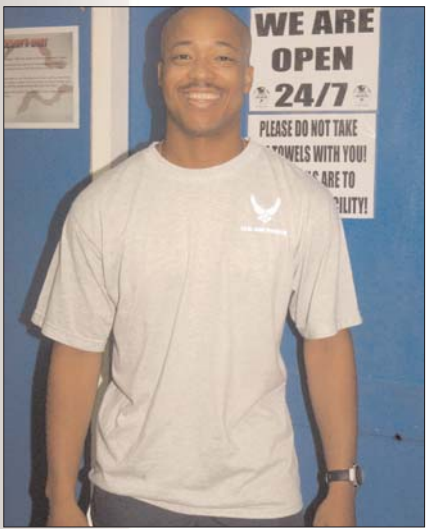
BALAD AIR BASE

# UNIFORM TIPS

When wearing the official Air Force physical training uniform, shirts must be tucked in. Guidelines on uniform regulations can be found in 332 AEWI 36-2903 sections two and three, [Dress and Personal Appearance Standards].



**Right**



**Wrong**

# Jumper: Airmen haven't changed at all

by Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON -- The Air Force's top-ranked officer first donned a flight suit more than 39 years ago -- before 83 percent of active-duty Airmen had even been born.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper has seen a lot of changes during his time in uniform, but he said one thing remains the same -- the dedication of Airmen to the job they are sworn to do.

"The thing that marked my generation in Vietnam is that we all did our duty," he said. "We answered the call, we did what our nation asked us to do, and we were all very dedicated to what we were doing. If you look at this generation of Airmen we have today, it is the same thing. They are every bit as committed and patriotic as you want them to be."

Though the dedication of Airmen to their mission has not changed over the years, General Jumper said the Air Force mission itself has changed dramatically.

"We have gone from the days (where) we were prepared to deal with Cold War dynamics -- to deploy over to Europe or the Pacific and prepare for the great monolithic war against the Warsaw Pact -- and made a shift into a world where you don't know what is coming next," he said.

That change in mission and focus forced the Air Force to adapt the way it does business, to develop into a force that is leaner, more flexible and more responsive. That new way of doing business, embodied in the air and space expeditionary force concept, was adopted quickly by the Air Force and has changed the Air Force in big ways.

"To be able to project our force into an AEF force, to be able to deal with contingencies on a rotational basis, to be able to surge our AEF to deal with something like Operation Iraqi Freedom -- all of these things are remarkable transitions to the

kind of agility we never had when I was a young captain," General Jumper said. "It shows us we do have the strength to change our culture and stay the best Air Force on the planet."

That transition to a more agile and responsive force has put new demands on the Airmen who do the mission.

"We have asked all Airmen to be expeditionary Airman now," he said. "That's a lot different than spending your career at Holloman Air Force Base (N.M.) or MacDill AFB (Fla.). If you go to a Balad (Air Base, Iraq) or one of the airfields we have in (the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility) where Airmen are stationed today, it is a different life. Expeditionary Airmen have to be able to live in an expeditionary setting.

They have to be able to defend the airfield and generate sorties or do their job in the face of mortar attacks or the face of fire, and we have to be able to fall in with the other services to do our job."

The Air Force has even asked Airmen to change their personal fitness to align themselves with the new role the service plays, the general said.

"The fitness program is going to make sure we have Airmen who are fit enough to walk around in the 30-pound Kevlar vest or wear a chemical suit when they have to," General Jumper said. "We have a different outlook now."

Airmen have changed the way they work to adapt to an Air Force that has changed its mission in response to a changed world. But one thing about Airmen remains as true today as it did when General Jumper became an Airman -- their dedication to whatever mission it is they are asked to do.

"The longer you are around, you realize that every generation has more in common than they don't have in common," he said. "When exposed to the right kind of leadership, the right kind of motivation, and most of all, a sense of pride, this generation of Airmen is no different than any generation that has ever served."

## Diamond notes

**While many Airmen are preparing to redeploy at the end of AEF 5/6, it is important to stay alert, focused and safe.**

From the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing First Sergeant.

## Balad AB Religious Schedule

### Protestant - Traditional

Sundays  
7:30 a.m. Hospital, 9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel, 10 a.m. Freedom Chapel

### Protestant - Gospel

Sundays  
11 a.m. - Sustainer Indoor Theater, 11:30 Freedom Chapel, 7 p.m. - Provider Chapel

### Protestant- Praise and Worship

Sundays  
9:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater, 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 6:30 p.m. MWR Tent 29th SPT BN  
Sundays and Wednesdays  
7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

### Protestant - Contemporary

Sundays  
10 a.m. 29th FSB Tent Chapel, 11 a.m. Town Hall

### Latter Day Saints

Sundays  
1p.m. Provider Chapel, 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

### Liturgical- Protestant

Sundays  
8 a.m. Provider Chapel

### Samoan Congregational Service

Sundays

4 p.m. Provider Chapel

### Roman Catholic Mass

Mondays - Fridays: 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Wednesdays

11 a.m. Air Force Hospital

Saturdays

5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (4:45 p.m. Reconciliation)

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel,

11 a.m. Provider Chapel, 3:30 p.m. "626" Chapel (for

Special Ops personnel only)

### Church of Christ

Sunday

11 a.m. Aviation Village 1, 1-245 ATS/Conf. room

### Islamic Prayer

Fridays

13:30 p.m. Provider Chapel

### Jewish Prayer

Fridays

6:30 p.m. Provider Chapel Annex



## Meet your neighbor



Photo by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

### Airman 1st Class Andrea Berggren

**Home station:** Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

**Unit:** 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron information manager

**Hobbies:** Scrapbooking, gardening

#### How do you contribute to the mission?

I ensure all correspondence is directed to the appropriate people.

#### What is your favorite aspect of deployment?

Free food, the pool and meeting new people.

#### Besides your family, what do you miss back home?

I miss my dogs Noel and Sandy.

## Know what this is?

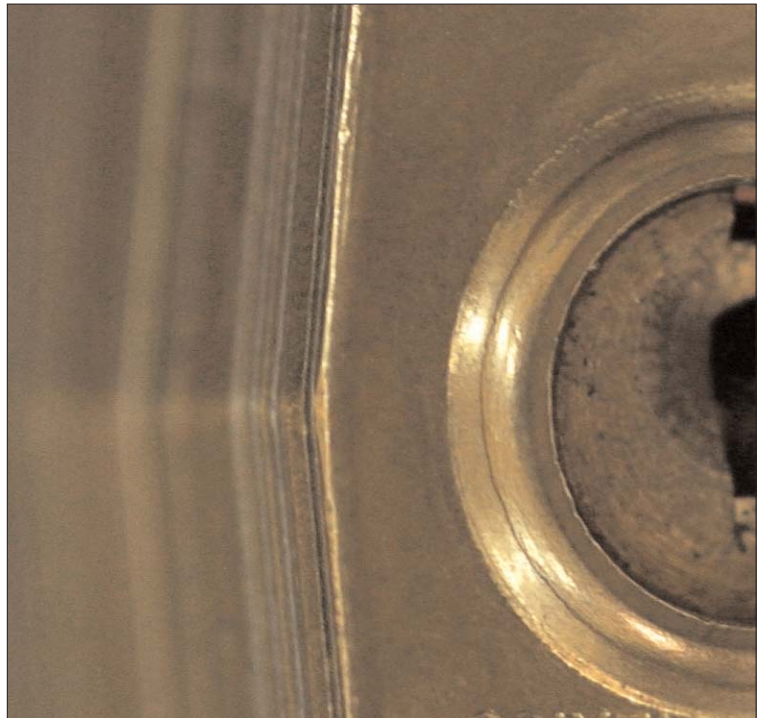
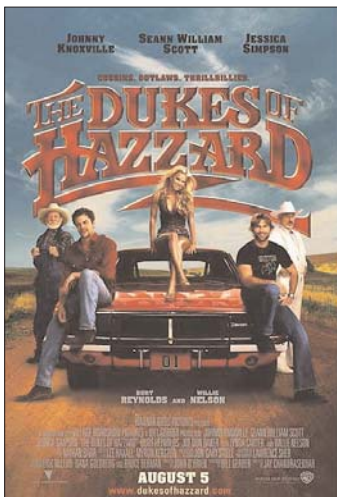


Photo by Senior Airman Tim Beckham

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at [redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil). Last week's photo of the top of AA battery was first identified by Staff Sgt. Rebecca Turnbull, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.

# Sustainer movie schedule

Schedule is subject to change



### Today

3 p.m. - Duece Bigalow 2  
6 p.m. - Mr. & Mrs. Smith  
9 p.m. - Dukes of Hazzard

### Saturday, August 20

3 p.m. - Mr. & Mrs. Smith  
6 p.m. - Dukes of Hazzard  
9 p.m. - Batman Begins

### Sunday, August 21

3 p.m. - Shark Boy and Lava Girl  
6 p.m. - Dukes of Hazzard  
9 p.m. - Mr. & Mrs. Smith

### Monday, August 22

3 p.m. - Dukes of Hazzard  
6 p.m. - Duece Bigalow 2

9 p.m. - Shark Boy and Lava Girl

### Tuesday, August 23

3 p.m. - The Honeyymooners  
6 p.m. - Dukes of Hazzard  
9 p.m. - Batman Begins

### Wednesday, August 24

3 p.m. - Sahara  
6 p.m. - Constantine  
9 p.m. - Monster in Law

### Thursday, August 25

3 p.m. - Shark Boy and Lava Girl  
6 p.m. - Dukes of Hazzard  
9 p.m. - Mr. & Mrs. Smith

